

KNIGHT JOURNEYS TO FRANCE

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science library was under construction and its team of librarians had been moved into the Bibliothèque Droit-Lettres. The science library was under renovation in the process of becoming a “Learning Center,” which surprised me by the use of English in the new title. France has changed quite a bit since I first traveled there in 2001. Now, French people freely use English words as a way of seeming more modern. There was even a series of events to welcome undergraduate students called “Campus Days.”

I had several surprising discoveries while I was there. The first was that the library had an extensive collection of archives with quite a few *incunabula*, which are books published before 1501. While I was there, a researcher from Paris came to assess the collection, since not everything in the library is catalogued. The second surprise was that there was no air conditioning in the library. This is not uncommon in France. I was also shocked to see the lack of accessibility for mobility-reduced patrons. There was an elevator, but one had to ask for a key from the circulation desk. Another discovery for me was that the salaries paid to librarians were very low compared to the United States. Several librarians I spoke with had financial worries, spurring them to join in with the Yellow Vest movement, which was in full swing while I was there. Many librarians lived outside of town in smaller villages where the housing prices were lower.

There are over 12 different libraries associated with the University of Burgundy in Dijon, and five satellite universities in the region. I was able to visit the university library in LeCreusot, which was built in 1996 in a former locomotive warehouse. Other than those differences, there was one final contrast that really shocked me. Even though there were students filling every available table in the library, it was quiet. Students sometimes complained if the librarians were talking too loudly!

The goals of this project were to see what life is like for the university student and librarian in a French university. I was able to publish an article on my former volunteer experience at the University of Caen-Normandie which I undertook during the summer of 2017. I was also able to create and teach two French online classes for Jacksonville State University. In October 2019, I taught a poster session at the Georgia Libraries Conference, and I was invited back to the University of Burgundy to volunteer in May of 2020. I am very grateful to my department head, John Upchurch, and my dean, John-Bauer Graham, who helped me to make this project possible. I would like to publish another article outlining the differences in the education process of university librarians.

There is still a lot to explore, and I am hoping to be able to pursue this course of study in the near future.

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The COLE *Train*

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Deering-Barrett’s 40 years of service



Debra Deering-Barrett

At a reception held in Point Clear, Alabama on April 4, 2019, Houston Cole Library’s Debra Deering-Barrett, Supervisor of User Services, was honored as the 2019 recipient of the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) Paralibrarian Award. This award is given to a library employee in recognition of outstanding contribution to the advancement of a library, libraries, or library service within Alabama. With over forty years of dedicated service to the Houston Cole Library, Mrs. Deering-Barrett has worked in multiple departments, taken on many library roles and maintained excellent service to faculty, staff, and patrons. As Supervisor of User Services, she managed the circulation staff and student workers and was solely responsible for the Library’s Interlibrary Loan department.

“The decision to nominate Debbie was an easy one,” according to Mr. John Upchurch, Head of Public Services. “She is more than deserving, given her record of service. Debbie has given her life to this Library and the students it serves over the last 40 years. She has shown incredible dedication and pride in her work throughout her career. I am beyond grateful for everything she has done.” This sentiment is shared by her coworkers, as evident in the numerous letters of support written on her behalf, all with examples of her hard work and dedication to the library. The letter submitted by her circulation staff reads: “Her fairness and compassion for those she supervises, combined with her loyalty and respectful nature, make the circulation staff feel like a family.” Debra’s rule to staff and student workers has always been, “I wouldn’t ask any of my staff to do something I myself am

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KNIGHT JOURNEYS TO FRANCE

Ms. Carley Knight recounts her sabbatical in France:

Last year I was so fortunate to participate in a professional development leave which landed me in Dijon, France, home to the University of Burgundy. This university, which originated in the 18th century as a law school, is a vibrant campus which welcomes close to 30,000 students. While I was in Dijon, my work focused on the university, student life, and the Bibliothèque Droit-Lettres, which is the undergraduate library for the university. The first focus of my study looked at the life of a university student. In the Fall of 2018 I enrolled as a distance education student in the department of *Sciences humaines, Lettres, et Langues*. It is a three-year program that focuses on French literature, Latin, with a minor look at either the English or German language. It is the U.S. equivalent of a bachelor's degree in English, but much more rigorous in terms of coursework. For the course of study I chose, *Lettres*, there were eleven classes over the period of one year which included: *19th and 20th century French literature, Comparative literature, Latin 1 and 2, French linguistics, and Mythology*.

While I was at the University of Burgundy, a very unpopular reform was passed which raised the tuition rates for non-E.U. students from the modest sum of €170 a year for a bachelor's degree to the outrageous price of €2,770 per year. There were multiple street protests as a result, and several times during my work at the university, the library was either closed or operating at reduced capacity due to the strikes.

In the second semester of my professional development leave, I worked as a volunteer at the Bibliothèque Droit-Lettres. The Bibliothèque Droit-Lettres at the University of Burgundy is the main campus library for the university and has undergone some changes in recent years. In an attempt to entice students and more casual visitors to the library, a selection of DVDs and free books have been placed in the lobby to encourage browsing. Last year the library added a piano to the lobby. The library is very popular with students and community patrons alike. During my time at the undergraduate library, the



Carley Knight (center) with University of Burgundy colleagues

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LIBRARY FUN FOR STU101

Students taking STU101: First Year Experience during the Fall 2019 semester got a unique introduction to the Houston Cole Library, its services, resources, and librarians through the use of escape room games. The student-driven game allowed STU101 students to engage with the Library's website and services in a dynamic and fun storyline. Student groups raced to save Houston Cole Library from evil hackers trying to steal access to all the Library's resources. It was truly a sight to behold as students, through the use of locks, black lights, paper clues, and peer-to-librarian interaction, improved their knowledge of the Library and its role in their college careers' success.

The idea of using escape room kits in STU101 library sessions came to the attention of the Library's Instruction Committee after a presentation at the Alabama Library Association annual conference in the spring of 2018. Librarians from The University of North Alabama presented on their successful creation and integration of using escape room kits in their library sessions. The Library had some experience with escape rooms as one was offered during the Library's Gaming Day activities to relieve stress during finals. Inspired by the University of North Alabama and JSU Gaming Day successes, planning commenced with the creation of an STU101 library escape room game.

History, Geography, and Anthropology Librarian Karlie Johnson, as Chair of the Instruction Committee, took the lead in the development of the STU101 game. Throughout the summer of 2019, Ms. Johnson created an engaging story centered on a company of online hackers called Hackers-R-Us, who attempt to take over Houston Cole Library's resources. The only way to save the Library is for students to "escape" by unlocking various locked boxes. To help students in their mission, Ms. Johnson created clues centered around different library services, resources, and locations that the groups could use to open the various locked boxes.

The use of four escape room kits purchased from Breakout EDU, an immersive learning games platform, allowed STU101 students to work in small groups, familiarizing themselves with the Library's website and learning about essential service points, such as the new 6th floor Multimedia Lab and the electronic discovery system, GEM Finder.

The STU101 Escape Room game launched in the Fall of 2019 to much success, with 25 different STU101 professors bringing their classes to "save" the Library. The game was also featured in other classes, such as LS104 and EH101. In total, approximately 500 freshman were introduced to Houston Cole Library via this fun and exciting game.

Deering-Barrett continued from page 1

not willing to do." She took pride in her role at the Houston Cole Library and excelled in all aspects of her position.

The recognition could not have come at a more appropriate time, as, after forty years of dedicated service here at Houston Cole, Debra retired September 1st. Her value and service to the Library is expressed best by Mr. John-Bauer Graham, Dean of Library Services:

"There isn't a position in academic libraries that has more of an impact or outreach as Interlibrary Loan. Whereas most library services focus on the students, faculty and staff we serve day to day, ILL services interact with libraries and patrons across the world on a day to day basis. Debbie has been our world ambassador for close to 40 years and has done an outstanding job representing our library and our campus. On a personal note, she's been here for the entirety of my tenure, and she will be greatly missed as a colleague and excellent member of my administrative team."

As for her plans after retirement, Debra is looking forward to some leisure time, lots of travel, and most importantly, spending time with her grandsons, Felix (age 3) and Warner (age 1). "It was an honor to receive the Paralibrarian Award this year, and it has been an honor to serve the Library for the past 40 years. I will miss the place and the people," Debra said, "but I am leaving proud of the things I have accomplished in all my years here. I was nineteen when I walked in these doors; I've spent most of my life in this Library, so I leave with mixed emotions. I have loved being here."

LACTATION ROOM

The Library is pleased to offer a Lactation/Nursing room located on the 5th floor, near the Children's Corner. Ms. Charlie Pettway Vann, Psychology and Philosophy Librarian, presented a proposal outlining the importance of such a facility for students, faculty, staff, and community patrons. The proposal stressed that investing in parents and our youngest patrons, possible future JSU students, lives up to our reputation as the "Friendliest Campus in the South." Ms. Vann would like to recognize the efforts of Dean John-Bauer Graham for budgeting for a new changing table, glider chair and ottoman for the lactation room; Head of Public Services John Upchurch for his support; Circulation Assistant Toby Falk for assembling the furniture, and librarian Laurie Heathcock for decorating the room. Baby wipes, hand sanitizer, and a baby blanket are available.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

A selection of some recent Library faculty scholarship includes:

- Heathcock, L., Westbrook, K. and Upchurch, J. (2019). "Kids in the college library." Presentation, Alabama Library Association, Point Clear, AL.
- Knight, C. (2019). "Volunteering at the Bibliotheque Droit Lettres: perspectives from an American librarian in France." Poster session, Georgia Library Conference, Macon, Ga.
- Tang, Y. (2019). "VoiceThread: Utilization of technology for library instruction." *International Journal of Online Pedagogy and Course Design*, 9(4).
- Wang, H. and Nuttall, H. (2019). "In pursuit of equity from the starting point: A survey of ALA accredited master's program curricula." Presentation, (LRS VII), Columbia, SC.
- Westbrook, K. and Johnson, K. (2019). "What happens when your library program is too successful: An AnniCon connection story." Poster session, American Library Association, Washington D.C.
- Westbrook, K., Johnson, K., Hubbard, A. and Spears, S. (2019). "AnniCon: Transformative origins and growth from a library program to a community event." Poster session, Alabama Library Association, Point Clear, AL.
- Westbrook, K. and Upchurch, J. (2019). "Finding your instructional voice: Improvisation, philosophy, & performance principles for every librarian." Presentation, Alabama Library Association, Point Clear, AL.
- Westbrook, K., Vann, C., Barnett-Ellis, P., Tang, Y. and Johnson, K. (2019). "An introduction for scholarly writing and publishing." Poster session, Alabama Library Association, Point Clear, AL.

NEW ACADEMIC SPACES

After the March 19 tornado, many things changed on our campus. The Library, even with its own extensive damage, stepped up and offered help. Classroom spaces on 2nd and 6th floor, the Conference Center on the 11th floor, open



classroom on the 7th floor, two library instruction classrooms in the basement and 10th floor, as well as the Dean's Conference Room and Administrative Conference Area, are available for classroom use. Other spaces may be available on a case-by-case basis, with the approval of the Head of Public Services and the Dean of Library Services.

These spaces were heavily used in the 2018-2019 academic year, totaling 2,410 events held. The 2019-2020 academic year is already off to a busy start. During Fall 2019, there were 1,100 classes and events held in the Library, including classes from Biology, English, Music, Nursing, Physics, STU101, and University Honors. There were 234 classes and events scheduled for November. Special digital signage points students to the locations for their classes, information that is also available on the website: <http://www.jsu.edu/library/libclass.html>.

For more information about available spaces, please contact Ms. Alisha Henson, Secretary to the Dean of Library Services. To reserve a space, complete the online form: <http://www.jsu.edu/library/forms/librariyspacerequest.html>.